

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /129 W
-----100011 141255Z /45

P 141055Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6107
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC

USMTN

USOECD

E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: STEEL: AMAYA TRIP TO BRUSSELS

1. MITI BASIC INDUSTRIES BUREAU DIRGEN AMAYA PLANNING MEETING WITH DAVIGNON IN BRUSSELS MARCH 16-17 TO SMOOTH OUT JAPAN-EC FRICTION OVER STEEL TRADE. CITING PAST FIERCE JAPAN-EC COMPETITION IN WORLD STEEL MARKETS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE U.S., AMAYA SAID THAT JAPAN WANTS TO END THIS STRUGGLE AND THAT COOPERATION WITH THE DAVIGNON PLAN, EVEN IF THE EC'S PHASE II MEASURES ARE OF DOUBTFUL LEGALITY, SEEMS THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY TO DO THIS. AMAYA ALSO SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS OUR TPS WITH
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DAVIGNON, AND EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR JAPAN-EC COOPERATION TO ENSURE THE SYSTEM'S VIABILITY.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE JAPAN-EC AGREEMENT UNDER PHASE II, AMAYA NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FORMAL PAPER ON THE SUBJECT, BUT THAT JAPAN MIGHT INITIAL A "NON-PAPER" RECORDING ITS INFORMAL "UNDERSTANDING" WITH THE EC.

ACCORDING TO AMAYA, THE JAPAN-EC AGREEMENT WILL BE IN TERMS OF PRICE ONLY; QUESTIONS OF QUANTITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE COVERED BY AN ORAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY AND THE ECSC.

3. AMAYA SAID THAT HIS STAY IN BRUSSELS WILL COVER ONLY MARCH 16-17. HE IS THE GOJ'S MOST SENIOR OFFICIAL DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR STEEL ISSUES AND IS HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY AMEMBASSY TOKYO. AMAYA HAS ALWAYS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD AND THE REST OF US AND WE THINK THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON TO TRY TO SEE HIM. AMAYA IS LESS PRONE THAN MANY JAPANESE TO WORRY THAT THE U.S. IS FORGETTING ABOUT THEM, BUT A BIT OF REASSURANCE SHOULD HAVE GOOD PAY-OFF. SHERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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